

20. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 19, wherein the second inhibiting element includes a plurality of inhibiting elements arranged in the second direction.

21. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 20, wherein the second inhibiting elements are provided along those opposite side of the first frame, which extend in the first direction.

A 22. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 20, wherein the first inhibiting element is provided in that one of the second inhibiting elements, which is located at a most upstream side in the direction in which the first carriage slides toward the hold position.

23. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 19, wherein the first and second inhibiting elements are located in positions in which the first and second inhibiting elements do not interrupt the first frame when the first frame is released from a fixed state by the fixing member and slides along the first rail to a position other than the hold position.

24. (New) The scanner unit according to claim 19, wherein the first inhibiting element has a spring structure which prevents the part of the first frame from moving in the first direction, and the second inhibiting element has a spring structure which presses said another part of the first frame against the first rail to hold the frame.

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#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. Claims 13-24 have been added. Thus, claims 1-24 are now pending in the application for consideration. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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